

Mr. Speaker, in this connection, I would note that the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe recently received a disturbing report from the well known international humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders, drawing attention to the deteriorating human rights situation in Chechnya. This report, "Civilians Targeted," documented the systematic bombing and killing of civilians by the Russian military in Chechnya, which, according to the report, has actually increased following President Yeltsin's announced peace initiative in March.

I would list a few of the activities engaged in by the Russian military, as witnessed by Doctors Without Borders teams.

Whole villages, including hospitals, schools and mosques, continue to be targeted, in blatant violation of the Geneva Conventions and other international agreements, to which Russia is a signatory.

The Russian military extorts money from Russian civilians in exchange for safe passage out of villages under attack.

Newly secured towns and villages are systematically looted and cattle are either killed or stolen.

Civilians are systematically denied the right to humanitarian assistance and humanitarian relief organizations are denied access to the areas in greatest need, often long after a military offensive is over.

The Russian military has consistently failed to respect the neutrality of hospitals and clinics, both in areas of intense military activity in the center of the country and in the capital Grozny, where the Doctors Without Borders hospital is under regular sniper fire.

These are a few of the blatant violations of accepted rules of warfare and humanitarian conduct cited in the report.

I think we can safely assume that Mr. Yeltsin's advisors have not provided him with a Russian language copy of the Doctors Without Borders report on his army's actions in Chechnya. There certainly have been indications that the President's advisors and military commanders have not been supplying him with entirely accurate information regarding the state of affairs in that war-torn region.

However, I have yet to hear anyone doubt Mr. Yeltsin's personal courage. Perhaps he will leave the secure confines of the Severny airport on the outskirts of Grozny and see what sort of peace his military is promoting in Chechnya.

I wish him a safe and instructive trip.

MEMORIAL DAY, 1996

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, Memorial Day leaves few hearts unmoved in recalling the sacrifices made by brave men and women who died in the defense of freedom and democracy. Memorial Day is not about war or peace, nor is it about a battle or an armistice. Memorial Day is about people—those who have lived, and those who have died.

There are no words to adequately describe the supreme sacrifice made by brave Americans who have died in the defense of our country. Words in the context of why we honor

their memory, pale in comparison to the ultimate deeds that men and women have done for those of us now living in a free world.

What we can do for them, is to sustain the memories of their heroism—with respect, with reverence, and with our heartfelt admiration. Humble words can never repay the debt we owe these brave men and women, yet we can strive to keep faith with them and to uphold their vision of righteousness, which led them into battle and to their final sacrifice. We are, after all, the caretakers of their memory.

The determination and courage shown by countless Americans who have fought and died in battle, is symbolized in a myriad of monuments and memorials, each commemorating the deeds of untold Americans whose remains sanctify the soil throughout the world. Those who have died and those who are still missing deserve our perpetual contemplation.

President Lincoln knew this when he dedicated those hallowed grounds at Gettysburg on that cold November day in 1863.

We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that a nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but they can never forget what they did here.

In World War I, America made the world safe for democracy and helped create a promising new world from the ashes of defeat. In World War II, faced with the single greatest threat to civilization the world had ever known, magnificent young Americans fought to extinguish the flame of tyranny throughout the world. America provided freedom loving people mired in a dark sea of despair, a beacon of hope and faith sustaining their anticipation of victory over oppression.

In Korea and Vietnam, Americans helped stem the tide of totalitarianism, which directly led to the demise of Communism and our ultimate victory in the cold war. Today, America is the guardian of democracy. Americans continue to demonstrate our resolve as the sentinel of freedom in Lebanon, Grenada, the Persian Gulf, Haiti, Somalia and the Balkans.

It is up to us the living, the beneficiaries of their sacrifice, to commemorate the deeds of those whom we confer the epithet of patriot.

Those who have served in combat understand the unique experience of war. Each has seen the devastation of property and the horror of death. Each has experienced the sadness of the loss of a friend and understands the grief of families who have lost a loved one. To this day, many share in the anguish of those who don't know the fate of a friend or a loved one missing in action. We all stand together as comrades in arms.

How can we convey our appreciation for the meaning of this day to those who have never served?

Education connects future generations of Americans with the battles fought by their parents and their grandparents. Each generation must be taught that the willingness of some to sacrifice their lives so that others might live in freedom, is the eternal legacy of all who have honorably served our country in wars past.

For it is this history which teaches us that brave Americans who were willing to give their

lives for freedom and democracy, did so for a cause they considered infinitely more important than life. None volunteered to die. Each volunteered to defend the values which brave men and women have always been willing to die for. Those values passed on to each generation of Americans are to advocate honor, to strengthen the family, and to defend our country and our flag.

Memorial Day is a national day of respect. As we honor the memory of our Nation's veterans and war heroes who are no longer with us, let us pledge that their lives and their sacrifice shall not have been offered in vain, but will be remembered by us all forever.

TRIBUTE TO RON PETERSON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today and pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of Ohio. After 30 years of dedicated service delivering the U.S. mail in Port Clinton, Ohio, Letter Carrier Ron "Pete" Peterson is hanging up the mail bag for good. I am especially thankful for Ron's dedication because he has been delivering to my family and friends along Sand Road for almost 28 of his 30 years.

We have often heard that America works because of the unselfish contributions of her citizens. Ron is an Air Force veteran, serving for 7 years. He has continued this service for his country through the United States Postal Service. Over the years, Ron has set the standard for dedication to duty and he is an example to others.

Anyone who knows Ron Peterson knows he is an avid fan of the Buckeyes, Indians, and Cavaliers. His enthusiasm for sports is matched by his knowledge and appreciation of jazz music. He has been extremely helpful to scores of colleagues and residents alike and has always provided positive leadership for the Post Office.

Sometimes the only compensation you get for the extra time and effort put into your career is the thanks and appreciation you receive from the community. By that standard, Ron Peterson is indeed a wealthy man. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending a special thanks to Ron Peterson and recognize the example he has set for others. I know his friends and family are proud of his career and wish him well as he enters this new chapter of his life.

FUNDRAISER ADMITS MIS- HANDLING OF ILLEGAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS FOR INDIAN EMBASSY

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 9, 1996, the Baltimore Sun ran an article reporting that Lalit H. Gadhia, a major political

fundraiser in Maryland, confessed to laundering over \$46,000 in illegal political contributions from the Indian Embassy. Gadhia, former campaign treasurer for Maryland Governor, Parris Glendening, and a Baltimore immigration lawyer, confessed to the scheme in the U.S. District Court in Baltimore, according to the report. According to the report, Mr. Gadhia used money provided by the Embassy through an operative named Devendra Singh to reimburse friends and associates for campaign contributions to pro-India members of Congress and a political action committee known as the Indian-American Leadership Investment Fund. It is illegal for anyone who is not a citizen to make a political contribution, and it is illegal to falsify the name of the contributor. Yet Indian Embassy spokesman Shiv Mukherjee is quoted in the article as saying that "the Indian Embassy operates fully within the bounds of diplomatic propriety." The words of the Embassy are clearly at odds with its actions.

The Embassy officials in charge of the scheme, former Ambassador S.S. Ray and former Embassy staffer Devendra Singh, have both returned to India. Mr. Ray was a losing candidate for Parliament in the recent elections and Mr. Singh holds a high-ranking position with the Rajasthan state police. The new ambassador, Naresh Chandra, brought his brother, Girish Chandra Saxena, to the Embassy with him. Girish Saxena is a former head of India's Research and Analysis Wing [RAW], which infiltrated Sikh temples throughout Punjab, Khalistan, in June 1984, in which over 20,000 Sikhs were killed. Ambassador Chandra himself has recently been implicated in illegal smuggling of CFC's from India to the United States, according to published reports. CFC's have been banned in the United States since January 1. According to the Customs Service, CFC's are now the No. 2 problem after illegal drugs.

In a press conference on February 19, 1995, Indian foreign Minister R.L. Bhatia said, "There is a strong anti-India lobby in the United States. We are spending large sums of money through Ambassador Ray to neutralize it." Now we know how the regime was spending that money. While the Members who received these contributions did not know that they were illegal, they know now, and I call upon those Members to return the money. I urge you to cosponsor House Concurrent Resolution 32, which calls for self-determination for Khalistan, and H.R. 1425, which will cut off U.S. aid to India until human rights are respected.

These illegal political activities are just one more demonstration of the moral bankruptcy of the recent regime. Some of us spoke out when former Ambassador Ray was caught endorsing a candidate in the South Dakota Senate race and attacking one in New Jersey. Once again the Embassy is inappropriately involved in U.S. politics. I know I speak for many members of this House when I say that I hope the new Indian Government will correct these practices. I am introducing into the RECORD articles from the May 9 issues of the Baltimore Sun and the Washington Times about the Gadhia case.

[From the Baltimore Sun, May 9, 1996]

CAMPAIGN FUND-RAISER ADMITS GUILT

(By Jim Haner and Mark Matthews)

A prominent fund-raiser for Maryland Democrats pleaded guilty yesterday to elec-

tion fraud in a scheme to launder at least \$46,000 in illegal campaign contributions he received from an official at the embassy of India in 1994.

Lalit H. Gadhia—a 57-year-old immigration lawyer and former campaign treasurer to Gov. Parris N. Glendening—confessed in U.S. District Court in Baltimore to his role in the scheme to influence congressional lawmakers involved in foreign-policy decision affecting India.

An immigrant from Bombay, India, who was active in Baltimore's early civil rights movement, Gadhia now faces up to five years in prison and \$250,000 in fines. Sentencing is scheduled for this summer.

Prosecutors say the case against Gadhia is one of only a handful of cases in which foreign citizens or governments have been linked to illegal campaign contributions in a U.S. political race, and may be the first time an official of a foreign embassy has been implicated.

"The fact that the money came from the Indian Embassy and that so many people were manipulated into participating in the scheme takes this case to a higher level than we normally see in these kind of investigations," said U.S. Attorney Lynne A. Battaglia. "Obviously, we have not seen a case like this in Baltimore before."

Among those who received the illegal funds were four members of the Maryland delegation and congressmen in Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio. According to documents filed in the case, federal authorities could find no evidence that any of the recipients was aware of the true source of the contributions.

"The campaign assumed that these were appropriate contributions," said Jesse Jacobs, press secretary for Sen. Paul S. Sarbanes, the Marylander who is the third-ranking Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee. Mr. Sarbanes received \$4,500 of the questionable contributions.

Other Maryland Democrats who received \$3,000 contributions each were Reps. Benjamin L. Cardin and Steny H. Hoyer and former Rep. Kweisi Mfume.

In all, 19 Democratic candidates nationwide got the money shortly before the 1994 elections through a network of prominent Indian-American businessmen in Maryland, their families and employees of their companies. The donors then were reimbursed by Gadhia, who admitted yesterday that he used money from a minister at the Embassy of India in Washington.

Under Federal Election Commission rules, it is illegal for noncitizens to make political contributions or for anyone to make donations in another person's name. But Gadhia never informed donors that the money was coming from India—or told them that it was a crime to accept reimbursement for a donation.

"The vast majority of people in the Indian-American community nationally are going to be appalled by this," said Subodh Chandra, 28, a Los Angeles lawyer who heads a political action committee that unwittingly received at least \$31,400 of the illegal contributions for Gadhia.

"We can only hope at this point that these were the acts of a lone bungler or group of bunglers and not some sort of international intrigue involving the Indian government. Whatever the case may be, it has harmed an immigrant community in this country that has worked hard for political recognition," Chandra said.

The scheme first came to light last year after a two-month investigation by The Sun into Chandra's PAC, the Indian-American Leadership Investment Fund. Federal campaign finance records showed that almost all of the group's money came from Baltimore

donors with ties to Gadhia, who then was Glendening's campaign treasurer.

Donating mostly in \$1,000 and \$500 increments, contributors ranged from prominent Indian-American engineers and doctors to cooks, busboys, students and secretaries who never before had made a political donation.

A half-dozen contributors interviewed said they were paid by Gadhia or his nephew to write the checks, but had no idea the practice was illegal.

Satish Bahl, a part owner of the Akbar Restaurant on Charles Street—where kitchen employees made \$13,000 in bogus contributions—echoed other Baltimore donors in saying he now feels badly used by his former friend.

"I had no idea—absolutely no idea," he said yesterday. "We were not aware of the consequences. We were only involved third-hand. We never thought about how far this could go."

Gadhia denied the allegations at the time of The Sun's investigation. But the case against him continued to build last summer as FBI agents issued subpoenas to those who gave to the PAC or who attended fund-raisers held by Gadhia for Maryland congressional candidates, Baltimore Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke and presidential aspirants Bill Clinton and Michael S. Dukakis.

FORMER MD. OFFICIAL

Gadhia was at the height of his political influence, having been rewarded by Glendening with an \$80,000-a-year post as his deputy secretary of international economic development. Within days, the governor demanded his resignation.

The allegations of wrongdoing stunned Baltimore's close-knit Indian-American community because Gadhia was its de facto political leader—the man with the golden Rolodex who could produce thousands of dollars in contributions with a round of telephone calls.

Then, on May 8, 1995, FBI agents seized documents from Gadhia's Charles Street office that quickly expanded the investigation beyond the PAC contributions: copies of 66 personal checks attached to an Airborne Express bill of lading.

According to records released yesterday by the U.S. attorney's office in Baltimore, the courier bill was addressed to a minister named Devendra Singh at the "Embassy of India" and it contained checks not only to the PAC but to 12 Democratic lawmakers.

The records enabled the FBI to trace some \$46,000 in illegal contributions back to Singh at the embassy, Battaglia said.

Singh, who now is a high-ranking police official in Rajasthan state in India, was minister for personnel and community affairs at the embassy at the time. Among his duties was to reach out to prominent Americans who had immigrated from India and seek their support for the government.

NO "SUCH CONTRIBUTION"

The current minister for community affairs, Wajahat Habibullah, denied that the embassy is involved in trying to influence U.S. foreign policy through campaign contributions.

"I have not made any such contributions," he said, adding that diplomats at the embassy have a budget for entertaining dignitaries but not for political donations. "Certainly it is not part of our work."

But it is not the first time the issue has come up.

India's current ambassador has been in Washington only since April. But his predecessor, Siddhartha Ray, who is now running for Parliament in India, drew harsh criticism from Indiana Republican Rep. Dan Burton for his statements backing certain members of Congress who were known to be strong supporters of India.

"We are very concerned about political activities at the Indian Embassy," Burton's chief of staff, Kevin Binger, said of the Gadhia guilty plea. "We feel very strongly that it should stay out of political races. Any allegation that this is going on should be investigated and made an issue with the Indian government."

Said embassy spokesman Shiv Mukherjee: "The Indian Embassy operates fully within the bounds of diplomatic propriety."

Officially, the State Department had no comment. Privately, however, officials chalked up the illegal contributions that were funneled through Gadhia's Maryland political network to a lack of sophistication in how to influence the American political system.

One official said the Indians had made a fumbling start in their attempt to copy the formidable clout wielded on Capitol Hill by such countries as Greece and Israel, which are aligned with powerful and well-financed Washington lobbies.

India and its supporters in Washington have been extremely vocal in trying to limit U.S. military assistance to India's longtime adversary, Pakistan—most recently, the sale of 38 F-16 fighters.

As the Clinton administration has tried to improve trade and political ties with India while not damaging relations with Pakistan; much of this debate had played itself out before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and House International Relations Committee.

Federal Election Commission records show that the committee members have become magnets for campaign contributions from Pakistani and Indian immigrants living in the United States—and for Gadhia's laundered contributions.

In addition to Sarbanes, other Democratic committee members targeted were Sen. Charles S. Robb of Virginia, \$2,000; Rep. Gary L. Ackerman of New York, \$3,000; Rep. Sherrod Brown of Ohio, \$3,000; Rep. Lee H. Hamilton of Indiana, \$3,000; Rep. Eliot L. Engel of New York, \$3,000; Robert E. Andrews of New Jersey, \$3,000; and Rep. Howard L. Berman of California, \$2,800.

State Department officials said yesterday's revelations were unlikely to do serious damage to U.S.-Indian relations. Nor does the Gadhia case appear to rise to the level of other campaign financing scandals involving foreign nationals.

The Justice Department is investigating the campaign finances of Rep. Jay Kim, a California Republican and the first Korean-American member of Congress.

Since December, four Korean companies—Hyundai Motor America, Korean Air Lines, Daewoo International (America) Corp. and Samsung America—have paid a total of \$1.2 million in fines in connection with illegal campaign contributions to Kim that were laundered through company employees.

In 1994, a number of Japanese citizens and corporations paid a \$162,225 civil penalty to the FEC for making more than \$300,000 in illegal contributions in Hawaii during the 1980s.

Perhaps the most famous episode of foreign intervention in recent history was the Korean scandal of the 1970s, in which a wealthy South Korean businessman funneled hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes and contributions to U.S. politicians.

Among those caught in the scandal, which implicated more than 30 members of Congress, was Hancho C. Kim, a Maryland businessman. He was sentenced to six years in prison in 1978 for accepting \$600,000 in funds from the Korean government to influence members of Congress.

HOW THE MONEY MOVED

Aug. 16, 1993: Indian-American Leadership Investment Fund registers as a political ac-

tion committee (PAC) with the Federal Election Commission. In first 13 months, it raises \$700.

October 1994: Lalit H. Gadhia sends 41 checks totaling \$34,900 written by various individuals to the PAC. Between Oct. 30 and Nov. 3, the PAC sends \$34,800 to 14 congressional candidates and to the Massachusetts Democratic Party's Victory '94 fund. Federal prosecutors say that Gadhia selected the candidates to receive contributions and that he reimbursed the authors of most of the checks, suing money obtained from an official at the Indian Embassy in Washington.

October-November 1994: Another \$15,000 in contributions from individuals is made directly to 12 candidates, including eight who also received money from the PAC. The contributors are reimbursed by Gadhia, using money from the Indian Embassy official.

Dec. 1, 1994: Gadhia sends a report on the use of the campaign funds to the embassy official Devendra Singh.

May 3, 1995: Gadhia resigns as Gov. Parris N. Glendening's campaign treasurer following a report in *The Sun* describing his fund-raising activities. He also takes leave of absence from his \$80,000 post as assistant secretary of international economical development in the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development.

May 8, 1995: FBI searches Gadhia's law office and finds evidence of the scheme to launder illegal campaign contributions.

June 30, 1995: Gadhia resigns his state job. Yesterday: Gadhia appears in federal court and admits his role in the scheme.

[From the Washington Times, May 9, 1996]

DEMOCRAT GUILTY OF LAUNDERING CONTRIBUTIONS

(By Mary Pemberton)

BALTIMORE.—A Democratic Party activist pleaded guilty yesterday to devising a scheme to funnel \$46,000 in illegal contributions to a political action committee and several federal election campaigns.

Lalit H. Gadhia, 57, who had been Gov. Parris Glendening's campaign treasurer, pleaded guilty in federal court to one count of causing a false statement to be made to the Federal Election Commission, U.S. Attorney Lynne A. Battaglia said. He faces up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine at sentencing Aug. 6.

None of the money in question went to the governor's campaign. But Maryland Republican Party Chairman Joyce Lyons Terhes said Gadhia's activities are indicative of the type of people Mr. Glendening surrounds himself with.

"I think it is one more example of the flawed administration of Glendening," she said.

But a state Democratic Party spokesman said it has nothing to do with Mr. Glendening and, if anything, reflects positively on the party.

"It is very unfortunate that he became overzealous, but the Clinton administration does not back off...even though this guy has been a strong supporter of Democrats," David Paulson said.

The FBI said Gadhia approached the Indian-American Leadership Fund in the fall of 1994 and persuaded the New Mexico PAC to contribute to candidates other than Indian-Americans, as long as he did the fund raising.

For three weeks in October 1994, Gadhia presented the PAC with checks totaling \$34,900, which he said were contributions from a number of individuals. He also provided names, addresses and occupations for those individuals so that the PAC could file the required reports with the FEC.

The PAC, in return, made political contributions to federal candidates selected by Gadhia in the November elections.

For the most part, the money donated to the PAC did not come from the contributors, prosecutors said. At least \$31,400 of the funds provided to the PAC were laundered by individuals who issued checks to the Indian-American Leadership Fund and then were reimbursed in cash for their contributions by Gadhia or his intermediaries, according to the FBI.

Prosecutors said Gadhia used the same type of scheme to launder \$15,000 in illegal contributions that he provided directly to a number of federal election campaigns.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN N. KRAMER

HON. STEVE GUNDERSON

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. GUNDERSON. Mr. Speaker, many retire with impressive records, but few could boast of surpassing the extraordinary career record of a prominent constituent of Wisconsin's Third Congressional District, John N. (Nick) Kramer of Fennimore, WI.

Kramer, age 83, recently stepped down after serving almost 60 years as the city attorney for Fennimore. As one of the State's premier municipal and school attorneys, he is also retiring from the law practice he first established in Fennimore in 1938, after having been in a prior practice in Lancaster, WI. In addition to serving many communities as legal counsel, he also served as president of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities for three consecutive terms. He was also recognized statewide for helping school districts consolidate during the late 1950's and 1960's.

One of his finest achievements to benefit southwest Wisconsin was getting a technical college located in Fennimore. During the late 1960's, the State was developing vocational districts and southwest Wisconsin was to be included in either the Madison or LaCrosse vocational district. Kramer, who served on several State committees, was instrumental in convincing the State that there should be a separate vocational district in the southwestern part of the State. Kramer was recognized for this achievement by Southwest Tech in 1992 and the administration building on campus was renamed the Kramer Administration Building. During that time, the city of Fennimore also named and dedicated a park in Nick's honor.

Kramer has also worked on boards of three of Wisconsin's main railroads to maintain rail service in the State.

Nick is a faithful and dedicated member of the Republican Party of Wisconsin and the Third Congressional District, having served as the Third District chairman for several years, as well as chairman of the Grant County Republican Party, a position he still holds.

His many accomplishments, statewide and locally, have earned him many friends and much respect through the State. Although he plans to keep in contact with long-time clients and serve on a couple of committees, he is honoring the wishes of his wife, Katherine, sons John, Jr. and Mark and daughter Joellen, in retiring from his practice.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of Wisconsin's Third District, I wish him a well-earned happy retirement.